

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 JUSE-00 /015 R

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ARA/RPP:J.KEANE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 070735

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORS, SNAR, MX

SUBJECT: SMUGGLING OF GUNS INTO MEXICO

1. SOUTHWESTERN STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS WHO ARE ORGANIZING THIRD CONFERENCE ON CRIME AND THE BORDER, NOW SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 5-7 AT ALBUQUERQUE WITH GOM PARTICIPATION, HAVE TENTATIVELY DECIDED TO LIMIT AGENDA TO:
1) SMUGGLING OF DRUGS INTO U.S.; AND 2) SMUGGLING OF ARMS INTO MEXICO.

2. WITH REGARD TO SECOND AGENDA ITEM, WE NOTE THAT MEXICAN OFFICIALS FROM OFFICES OF FEDERAL ATTORNEY GENERAL AND ATTORNEYS GENERAL OF SEVERAL NORTHERN STATES COMMENTED AT SECOND LAW ENFORCEMENT CONFERENCE IN EL PASO IN OCTOBER, 1977, THAT SMUGGLING OF ARMS FROM U.S. CONTINUED TO BE A TROUBLESOME PROBLEM, SUBSEQUENT STATEMENTS, HOWEVER, BY OTHER GOM OFFICIALS, AND BY SOME INDIVIDUAL U.S. LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS SUGGEST THAT SMUGGLED GUNS HAVE NOT BEEN A SERIOUS PROBLEM OR THAT, IF IT ONCE WAS
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A PROBLEM, IT IS NOW UNDER CONTROL.

3. IN PREPARATION FOR CONFERENCE, WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR LATEST BRIEF ASSESSMENT OF GOM'S PERCEPTION OF

PROBLEM, ITS GRAVITY, WHETHER IT'S GETTING WORSE, AND REMEDIAL ACTIONS, IF ANY, THEY MIGHT LIKE U.S. TO TAKE.

WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE, OF COURSE, MISSION'S OWN
ASSESSMENT OF SEVERITY OF ARMS SMUGGLING PROBLEM AND
COMMENTS ON APPROACH GOM OFFICIALS LIKELY TO TAKE IN
DISCUSSING IT AT ALBUQUERQUE.
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